

BALTIMORE SUN
6 JANUARY 1977Belenko, Viktor
Soc. 01.1 W. Germany
Steen

Defector said to reveal wartime strategy

Soviet kamikaze plans reported

Hamburg, West Germany (AP)—A Soviet Air Force fighter pilot, who defected to the West told his American interrogators that Russian combat pilots have orders to make kamikaze-style suicide attacks rather than bail out in wartime emergencies, *Stern* magazine says.

Those who return alive are to be shot, the pilot, Lt. Victor I. Belenko, reportedly said.

The weekly West German magazine also quoted Central Intelligence Agency sources as saying Lieutenant Belenko suffered a nervous collapse during weeks of intense grilling by the CIA, and it said he was now living at a secret location on \$1,500-a-month support payments.

Lieutenant Belenko flew his top-secret MIG-25 jet from Siberia to Japan's Hakodate airport September 6 and told the astonished Japanese he wanted political asylum in the United States.

U.S. experts examined the plane thoroughly before it was returned to the Soviet

Union, and Lieutenant Belenko was taken to the United States.

The *Stern* article, scheduled for publication today, contained excerpts from what the magazine said were CIA interrogation records.

The Russian lieutenant said air defenses in the eastern Soviet Union are manned by airmen considered disciplinary problems, *Stern* reported. Lieutenant Belenko himself was assigned to Siberia for that reason, it said.

"They [the pilots] are like wolves," he was quoted as saying. "They try to collect laurels through daring actions against Chinese combat aircraft and U.S. spy planes in order to get posted back to the west of the Soviet Union."

The pilots are ordered to pick out enemy targets for suicide attacks in combat emergencies and "whoever returns is shot," he reportedly said.

The Russian lieutenant lived for weeks under strict guard in "safe" houses in

Washington and was transferred almost daily in a closed van to a cellar room at nearby Bolling Air Force Base for intense grilling sessions, *Stern* reported.

CIA agents reportedly bought him his favorite Chinese dishes at a nearby restaurant, but Lieutenant Belenko lost more than 26 pounds during seven weeks of tough questioning and finally had a nervous breakdown in November, *Stern* said.

Interrogation procedures were then eased and he was allowed more contact with the outside world, it was claimed.

With his brown hair dyed blond, his hairline altered, a newly grown mustache and blue contact lenses disguising his brown eyes, Lieutenant Belenko was even allowed to stroll Washington streets under heavy guard—and was nearly run down accidentally by a taxi, *Stern* reported.

The magazine said Lieutenant Belenko finally was taken in a closed laundry van to an unknown destination, where he is to live under an assumed identity as a naturalized U.S. citizen on the government support payments.

Stern said Lieutenant Belenko told one CIA agent: "I will always have to live in a prison, whatever happens. I will always wait for the day when they find me."

Lieutenant Belenko was at first suspected of being a Soviet KGB agent because his MIG-25 was an outdated model lacking advanced equipment and even showing rust patches, *Stern* said.

It said he explained that only ideologically dependable Soviet pilots are given fully equipped jets.